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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Establishment of SNB-PS Units and  
Their Locations

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An attempt is being made by the Czech Ministry of the Interior (MV) to take over all border control and defense functions along the Amzon border. Its ultimate aim is to set up special frontier units patterned after the Soviet model. To achieve this, SNB Frontier Guard divisions are being formed and SNB recruits are being trained as engineers and artillerymen.

Although army units charged with the strategic defense of the frontier are stationed in the border area in strength, it is believed that the MV, a Communist stronghold since 1945, will have no trouble effectuating its plan.

This trend towards consolidation has existed since 1945, when the Communists in the MV succeeded in organizing 18 NB (National Security) battalions led by selected Communist army officers. Before the formation of the NB battalions, the MV, in addition to its other internal security functions, controlled a small police force which patrolled the secondary frontier crossings along the border. At the same time, Customs and Finance Guards directed by the Ministry of Finance were stationed at main road and rail frontier points, and the army had special infantry units garrisoned along the border. This distribution of functions was similar to that which existed before the German occupation.

4. With the formation of the NB battalions independent of the SNB, the Communists set out to organize these battalions as an elite guard to serve as a military support for the Communist Party against other political parties and as a counterbalance to the army, which was 90 percent anti-Communist. In spite of the opposition of the other parties which realized the significance of this move, Vaclav Nosek, the Minister of Interior, succeeded in appointing Communists to all the high-ranking NB positions, thus helping to precipitate the February 1948 crisis. The rank and file, which were believed to consist of loyal Communists, proved to be unreliable in 1948, as many NB members helped refugees to escape to Amzon.
5. After the Communist coup, with the SNB firmly established as a para-military organization, the MV began to expand its influence in border control. In December 1948 the Finance Guard was dissolved, the SNB taking over its duties. Former members were assigned to the SNB if they were thought to be politically reliable.

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6. In August 1949 the NB units were absorbed into the SNB and designated SNB-PS Battalions (Pohranicni stras - Frontier Guards). Twelve training centers for recruits were set up there, carefully selected young Communists are given basic training and then assigned to SNB-PS Battalions.
  7. The MV is using soldiers to fill up the gaps in the SNB-PS units until the flow of replacements from the training centers becomes constant. Soldiers from the border garrisons, after a careful check, are assigned to these SNB outfits and if they are satisfactory are offered a chance to remain in the SNB after the expiration of their army enlistments. Soldiers have also replaced many of the 1945 and 1946 recruits who proved to be unreliable and were purged. As a result of this reinforcement and purge policy, the number of apprehended illegal border crossers rose almost 60 per cent in 1949.
  8. Because the SNB-PS system of frontier guarding was far from perfect, a plan (Zajisteni pohranicniho uzemi - or ZPU) was formulated which called for participation of army units. The basis for this scheme was the pre-war General Staff defense plan called Ostraha (sic) a Kyrt Hranic. The task of the army in the ZPU plan consists of strategic defense of the border and to this end the army has reactivated many of the pre-war fortifications, prepared new defense positions, made terrain studies, built gun sites and observation posts, constructed anti-tank defenses, and laid mine fields.
  9. In the summer of 1949 army units were transferred into the border region and many inland organizations were reduced so that their personnel could reinforce units stationed along the border. Many of the soldiers, however, deserted, some passed information to the Americans, and many helped refugees to escape. More stringent security checks were then introduced and soldiers and officers were encouraged to spy on one another.
  10. In May 1949, I Army Corps Headquarters was transferred from Litomerice (Litomeritz - NSL/P 53) to Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad - NSL/P 69). The II Army Corps Headquarters was moved from Hradec Kralove (Königgrätz - OSL/G 71) to Tabor (OSO/M 01).

#### SNB-PS Organization on Southwest Frontier

11. The Ministry of the Interior's III Department, headed by SNB Col Jan Pavel, controls the SNB whose main headquarters are located in the former Archbishopric College, Prague (OSL/L 78) Dejvice. The SNB headquarters control
  - a. Territorial Organization of the SNB, i.e., District Commands, Area Commands, SNB stations and posts.
  - b. Headquarters of the SNB Air Force, located at Pod Kastany Street, Prague-Dejvice. Commanding Officer is General Staff Lt Col Albin Hajtanek.
  - c. SNB-PS Headquarters, code number 9600, located in Prague -Vrsovice. Commanding officer is SNB Lt Col Bohumil Kovar.

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## 12. SNB-PS battalions are located at:

- a. Karlovy Vary, code number 8496.
- b. Pilsen (N50/L 04), code number 8396.
- c. Klatovy (Klattau - N50/L 00), formerly at Pisek, code number 4222.
- d. Ceske Budejovice (049/Q 96), code number 8196.

All of the battalions are under the direct control of Headquarters number 9600.

13. The Battalion Headquarters at Karlovy Vary is located on Zahradni Street near the Central Post Office. The battalion's sector is bounded on the north by the line from Prissnitz (Pressnitz - N51/K 82) to Kadan (N51/K 91) and on the south by the line from Neuheimhausen (N50/P 45) to Plana (N50/P 55). Companies of this battalion are located at:

- a. Kraslice (Graalitz - N51/K 30), which has platoons at:
  - (1) Rybnik - with 18 men
  - (2) Soenbach (Schonbach - N51/K 50) - with 18 men
- b. Nejdek (Neudek - N51/K 50), which has platoons at:
  - (1) Bori Dar (Gottesgab - N51/K 61)
  - (2) Seify (Seifen - N51/K 61)
  - (3) Potucky
  - (4) Prebuz (Frühbuss - N51/K 40)
- c. As (Asch - N51/P 18), which has platoons at:
  - (1) Neuburg (N51/P 19) - with 44 men
  - (2) Hranice - with 42 men
- d. Cheb (Eger - N51/P 37), which has platoons at:
  - (1) Haslov (Haslau - N51/P 28) - with 40 men
  - (2) Libstejn (Liebenstein - N51/P 27) - with 46 men
  - (3) Kynperk (Königsberg - N51/P 48) - with 46 men
- e. Vysoka (Wisset - N51/K 92), which has platoons at:
  - (1) Palic (Palitz - N51/P 36) - with 42 men
  - (2) Tri Sekery (Dreibacken - N50/P 56) - with 42 men
  - (3) Lohmhauser (Lohmhauser - N50/P 45) - with 42 men

14. The Battalion stationed at Pilsen is commanded by Maj Jan Suk. The northern boundary of the battalion's sector is the line from Neuheimhausen to Plana. The southern boundary is the Rysov (N50/U 39) - Domazlice (Taus - N50/P 70) line. Companies belonging to the battalion are stationed at:

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- a. Tachov (Tachau - N50/P 54), which has platoons at:
- (1) Pavlův Studenec (Paulusbrunn - N50/P 44)
  - (2) Pavlova Hůt (Paulushütte - N50/P 44)
  - (3) Před Waldheim (N50/P 33)
- b. Prácheň (Přerub - N50/P 53), which has platoons at:
- (1) Nový Lohiměř (Neulosimthal - N50/P 43)
  - (2) Rozvadov (Rosshaupt - N50/P 43)
- c. Bělá (N50/P 95), which has platoons at:
- (1) Hlinsko (N50/P 52)
  - (2) Rybník (Waler - N50/P 51)
- d. Babylon (N50/P 70), which has platoons at:
- (1) Nemanice - with 42 men
  - (2) Fuchsova Hůt (Fichtenbach - N50/U 59) - with 38 men
  - (3) Česká Kubice (N50/U 79) - with 44 men
  - (4) Polná (Ober Vollmau - N50/U 79) - with 38 men
15. The SNB-PS Battalion at Klatovy was formerly located at Písek (N50/Q 69). Its sector is bounded on the north by the Hýrosov-Domažlice line and on the south by a line running from Modrava (Mader - N50/Q 26) to Kasperakův Hůr (Reichenstein Berg - N50/Q 27). This battalion has companies located at:
- a. Prácheň near Klatovy (Neugedau - N50/P 80), which has platoons at:
- (1) Maxov (Maxberg - N50/U 79)
  - (2) Vseruby (Neumark - N50/U 89) - with 40 men
  - (3) Hýrosov (Hirschau - N50/U 89)
- b. Hýrosov (Hauera - N50/U 99), which has platoons at:
- (1) Svata Katerina (N50/U 88) - with 40 men
  - (2) Hamry (Hammer - N50/U 98) - with 42 men
- c. Železná Ruda (Eisenstein - N50/Q 07), which has platoons located at:
- (1) Hojsova Stráň (Eisenstraus - N50/U 98) - with 46 men
  - (2) Prácheň (Stubenbach - N50/Q 17) - with 46 men
  - (3) Srní (Rehberg - N50/Q 16) - with 45 men
  - (4) Modrava (Mader - N50/Q 26) - with 43 men

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16. The SNB-PS Battalion at Ceske Budejovice controls the sector bounded on the north by Modrava-Kasperske Hory and on the south by Nova Bystrice (Q50/X 72). Companies of this battalion are located at:

a. Horni Vitavice (Ober Moldau - N49/Q 44), which has platoons at:

- (1) Busina (Duchwald - N49/Q 25) - with 42 men
- (2) Knizeci Plana (Fürstenhut - N49/Q 35) - with 44 men
- (3) Kunzwardt (Kuschwarda - N49/Q 35) - with 46 men
- (4) Ceske Zleby (Böhmisch Böhren - N49/Q 44) - with 46 men
- (5) Stozec (Tusset - N49/Q 44) - with 24 men

b. Horni Plana (N49/Q 63), which has platoons at:

- (1) Nove Udoli (Neuthal - N49/Q 44) - with 40 men
- (2) Nova Pec (Neuofen - N49/Q 63) - with 28 men
- (3) Zvonkova - with 36 men
- (4) Steegenwald (N49/Q 63) - with 28 men
- (5) Dolni Vitavice (Unter Moldau - N49/Q 63) - with 24 men

c. Vyssi Bred (Hohenfurth - N49/Q 82), which has platoons at:

- (1) Frymburk (Friedberg - N49/Q 72)
- (2) Studanky (Kaltenbrunn - N49/Q 82) - with 32 men
- (3) Horni Dvoriste (O49/Q 92) - with 26 men

d. Malenty (O49/R 03), which has platoons at:

- (1) Dolni Dvoriste (O49/Q 92)
- (2) Cetviny (O49/R 03) - with 24 men
- (3) Pohori na Sumave (O49/R 12) - with 26 men

e. Nove Hradky (O49/R 14), which has platoons at:

- (1) Stropnice (O49/R 14)
- (2) Ceske Valenice (O49/R 24)
- (3) Other platoons have not been located.

17. Patrols of the SNB Air Force are located at:

- a. Karlovy Vary, which patrols the Karlovy Vary and the Usti nad Labem (Aussig an der Elbe - N51/F 44) district.
- b. Pilsen, which controls the Pilsen district.
- c. Ceske Budejovice, which controls the Ceske Budejovice - Jihlava (Iglau - O50/M 61) district.

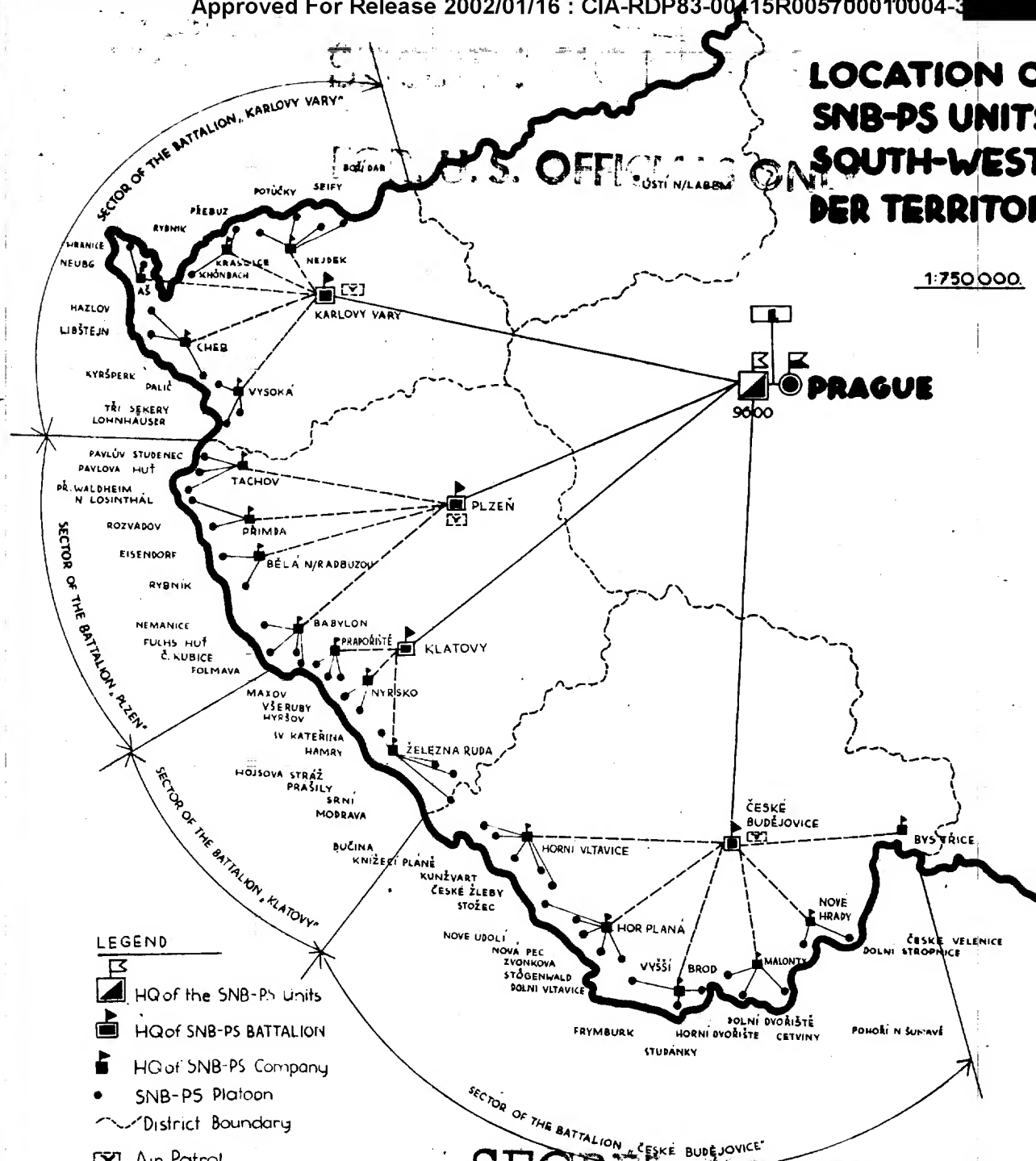
Encl. Sketch showing locations of SNB-PS units.

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# **LOCATION OF THE SNB-PS UNITS IN SOUTH-WEST BORDER TERRITORY (ČSR).**

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## **LEGEND**

- HQ of the SNB-PS units
- HQ of SNB-PS BATTALION
- HQ of SNB-PS Company
- SNB-PS Platoon
- District Boundary
- Air Patrol
- Superior HQ of SNB
- III<sup>rd</sup> Departement Ministry of the Interior

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